



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 10, 2010

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RIDLEY-THOMAS ADDRESSES GRADUATING CLASS OF DEPARTMENT OF PROBATION'S DAY REPORTING CENTER

Graduates Received Job Readiness, Life Skills Training

Los Angeles—Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas today addressed the graduating class of the Day Reporting Center (DRC), a Department of Probation re-entry program that provides job training and life skills services to at-risk and non-compliant offenders, age eighteen to twenty-five. Since the DRC's creation in 2008, it has quickly become one of the bright spots in the Probation Department's program and a model for re-entry services.

"I am tremendously proud of the work you've done here at the DRC," Supervisor Ridley-Thomas told the graduates. "Not just because of the progress you've made in your own personal development, but because you're proving that innovative, proactive programs such as this are indeed making a difference in the lives of our young people and deserve our continued investment."

DRC participants receive resume assistance, interview preparation, guidance on professional dress and behavior, and exposure to potential employers. The program also provides wrap-around services to assist the probationers including: anger management, moral reasoning classes, mental health counseling, alcohol and substance abuse rehabilitation, and counseling from the Department of Public Social Services and the Department of Children and Family Services.

“In addition to job training and life skills, the most important thing you’ve learned here at the DRC is leadership. You’ve learned to take leadership in your own lives, and today I challenge you to take leadership in your own community,” Supervisor Ridley-Thomas also told the graduates.

Supervisor Ridley-Thomas spoke to the graduates about the ongoing revitalization of the Second District, which includes the new Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Hospital and the Expo Line construction project that will provide public transportation between downtown Los Angeles and Culver City and eventually beyond. The students learned about recently approved local hire policies for both projects that will create employment opportunities for residents who live within 5 miles of the construction sites or in zip codes with very high unemployment rates.

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